

Application No. 10/723,999
Amendment "A" dated July 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed June 16, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 remain pending in the application, wherein claims 5, 22 and 33-35 have been amended. No claims were cancelled or added. Claims 5 and 22 were amended to correct obvious typographical errors. Claims 33-35 were amended in a manner that explicitly allows for combinations of the recited components.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action objects to claims 1-37 on the grounds they conflict with claims 1-17, 19-24, 26-30, 34 and 37-43 of U.S. application Serial No. 10/767,549. In response, Applicants note that the claims in the '549 application specifically recite the use of at least two different types of fibers. Claims 1-37 of the present application generically read on, but are not limited to, compositions that include two or more different types of fibers. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims of the present application do not claim the exact same invention as those contained in the '549 application.

II. OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-37 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-17, 19-24, 26-30, 34 and 37-43 of copending U.S. application Serial No. 10/767,549. The Office Action also rejects claims 1-37 as being unpatentable over claims 1-18, 20, 22-24, 26-29, 32 and 36-41 of U.S. Patent No. 6,881,008. Without acquiescing in this rejection, Applicants are submitting a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith in order to remove the rejection.

III. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants are also submitting an information disclosure statement herewith in order to fulfill their obligation to bring art cited in related applications to the attention of the examiner.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be

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clarified through a telephone interview or which may be overcome by examiner amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 15th day of July 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN M. GYNN
Registration No. 36,153
Attorney for Applicant
(801) 533-9800

JMG:mla

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